



International Mobile Satellite Organization

ASSEMBLY

Twentieth Session

Malta, 29 September to 3 October 2008

Agenda item 8.2

ASSEMBLY/20/8.2

Origin: Director

Date: 25 June 2008

COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<i>Executive Summary:</i>	this document discusses the election of the members of the Advisory Committee.
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	To consider and decide on the composition of the Advisory Committee, including observers.
<i>Related documents:</i>	ASSEMBLY/20/8.3; ASSEMBLY/20/INF/5, Reports of the Seventeenth to Twenty-First Sessions of the Advisory Committee

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 At its Sixteenth Session, the Assembly decided to establish the Advisory Committee on a permanent basis, until or unless otherwise decided by the Assembly,

1.2 At its Eighteenth Session, the Assembly elected the following twenty-nine (29) countries to be members of the Advisory Committee until the next regular Session of the Assembly:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, the Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, with Argentina and Portugal as observers and Malaysia as an alternative member on behalf of Bangladesh

1.3 It is therefore necessary to elect countries as members of the Advisory Committee up to the next regular Session of the Assembly. For convenience, a table showing the composition of the Committee since its establishment in 1999 is attached.

2 MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2.1 The current membership of the Committee is twenty-nine members, plus two regular observers, although other countries have attended some sessions as observers. Although there are obvious advantages to as many Member States as possible participating in meetings of the Committee, this needs to be balanced with the requirement for a Committee of a manageable size, in particular the budgetary implications. The Assembly may also wish to consider reminding Member States that a prime responsibility of members of the Committee is to participate actively in its work and to represent the interests of, and to disseminate information to, other countries within the relevant region

2.2 The attention of the Assembly is drawn to document ASSEMBLY/20/8.3 which proposes amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, in particular items 1.2 and 3.1 regarding the number of representatives to form the composition of the Advisory Committee and the quorum for its meetings.

2.3 In order to assist the Assembly, as a purely mathematical exercise, attached to this document is a table which distributes the membership of the Organization (currently 92 Member States) into four regions: the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia/Pacific. The table also shows the percentage of the membership within each grouping, which the Director believes could be useful should the Assembly decide to allocate membership of the Advisory Committee in proportion to the number of Member States within each grouping. As an illustration for example, should the Assembly decide that the membership of the Advisory Committee should be 15 (the number suggested by the Committee in square brackets in the proposed amendments to its Terms of Reference – document ASSEMBLY/20/8.3 refers), or 18 (twenty percent of the current membership), these could be allocated as follows:

Grouping	Number of Member States Within Group	Percentage of Membership	Allocation of 15 Members	Allocation of 18 Members
The Americas	13	14%	2	3
Europe	33	36%	5	6
Africa	16	17%	3	3
Asia/Pacific	30	33%	5	6

2.4 Also attached, for the information of the Assembly is a table showing the membership of the Committee since its inception and the participation of Member States at each meeting.

3 **ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**

3.1 Representatives of Inmarsat, the International Maritime Organization, the European Commission, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and of potential service providers have also attended various sessions of the Committee as observers.

3.2 At its Nineteenth (Extraordinary) Session, the Assembly requested the Advisory Committee to consider the Admission of Observers to IMSO Meetings in the context of its review of the Rules of Procedure. As indicated in document ASSEMBLY/20/5, the Advisory Committee will discuss this issue at its Twenty-Second Session in July 2008.

4 **ACTION REQUIRED**

4.1 The Assembly decides to elect countries as members of the Advisory Committee up to the next regular Session of the Assembly.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE : BACKGROUND TO MEMBERSHIP

ASSEMBLY/14 – 1999

Japan proposal to Assembly/14 was **eleven** members, with membership allocated in the following way:

- two members from North/Central/South America
- two members from Western Europe
- two members from Eastern Europe
- two members from Africa
- three members from Asia/Pacific

At Assembly/14, the following **fifteen** countries were elected:

Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, France, Japan, Liberia, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America

ASSEMBLY/15 – 2000

At Assembly/15, the Assembly decided that the Advisory Committee established by Assembly/14 should continue up to the next regular Session of the Assembly, with the present composition and number of members.

ASSEMBLY/16 – 2002

At Assembly/16, the following **fifteen** countries were elected:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, India, Japan, Liberia, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America,

The Assembly also noted a proposal that consideration be given at a future Session of the Assembly to either establishing a limit on the term during which a member may serve on the Advisory Committee or to introduce a system of rotation by the membership.

ASSEMBLY/17 – 2004

At Assembly/17, the following **seventeen** countries were elected:

Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, United States of America.

with France and Portugal as observers; Panama has also attended on a regular basis and Nigeria and Turkey have attended the Fifteenth Session.

ASSEMBLY/18, 2006

At Assembly/18, the following twenty-nine (29) countries were elected:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, the Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, with Argentina and Portugal as observers and Malaysia as an alternative member on behalf of Bangladesh

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
[with current Members shown in bold]

Region	Country	Number of Countries	Percentage Share of Membership	Allocation of Members
The Americas	<i>Argentina (Obs)</i> , Bahamas, Brazil , Canada , Chile , Colombia , Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico , Panama , Peru , United States of America , Venezuela	13	14%	8 Brazil Canada Chile Colombia Mexico Panama Peru USA
Europe	Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus , Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France , Germany , Greece , Hungary , Iceland, Italy , Latvia, Malta , Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, <i>Portugal (obs)</i> , Romania, Russian Federation , Serbia, Slovak Republic, Spain , Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey , Ukraine, United Kingdom	33	36%	12 Cyprus France Germany Greece Hungary Italy Malta Russia Spain Turkey UK
Africa	Algeria , Cameroon, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya , Liberia , Libya, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria , Senegal , South Africa , Tanzania, Tunisia	16	17%	6 Algeria Kenya Liberia Nigeria Senegal S.Africa
Asia, Pacific	Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh , Brunei Darussalam, China, Cook Islands, Comores, India , Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan , Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, <i>Malaysia (Obs)</i> , Marshall Islands , New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam	30	33%	4 Bangladesh India Japan Marshall Is
Total	92	92	100%	29